GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5240
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
ELECTRIFICATION THROUGH NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have any plans for electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources basically in SC and ST areas where there is no electrification; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas of West Bengal which have been taken on priority basis?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

(SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a): The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is supporting the installation of solar photovoltaic systems, biomass gasifiers for power generation and small hydro power plants in unelectrified regions of the country. Although the schemes are not restricted to SC and ST areas, most of the projects benefit scheduled castes or scheduled tribes. Among the regions covered by these programmes are the North Eastern states, the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar.

(b): The Sundarbans region of West Bengal, which has a sizeable SC and ST population, has been classified as a High Focus Area for the solar photovoltaic programme of the Ministry. Photovoltaic power plants have been installed in five villages in Sagar Island and three more plants are under installation in the same area. Another photovoltaic power plant has been sanctioned recently for Mausani Island in Sundarbans. Biomass based power plants, solar home lighting systems and street lights have been provided in the Gosaba Block of Sundarbans. Among other areas of West Bengal, solar home lighting systems are being installed in three ST villages of Bankura District.